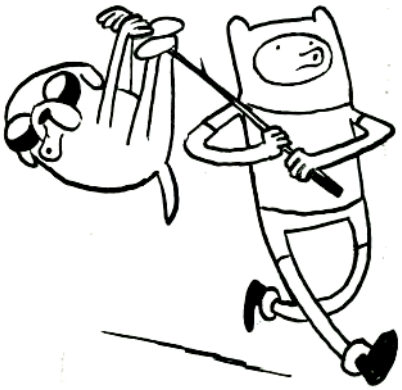
**BOXCARS**
Outline by Adam Muto
Story by McHale, McKeon, Muto and Ward
[Revised 12.17.08]

**Featured Characters:**



Finn
Jake
Alpha Marvin, leader of the Hoboes
Starvo Slim, a Hobo
Jimmy Sidecar, a lesser Hobo
Chambreaux, a werewolf
Various Hoboes

**THE ADVENTURE:**

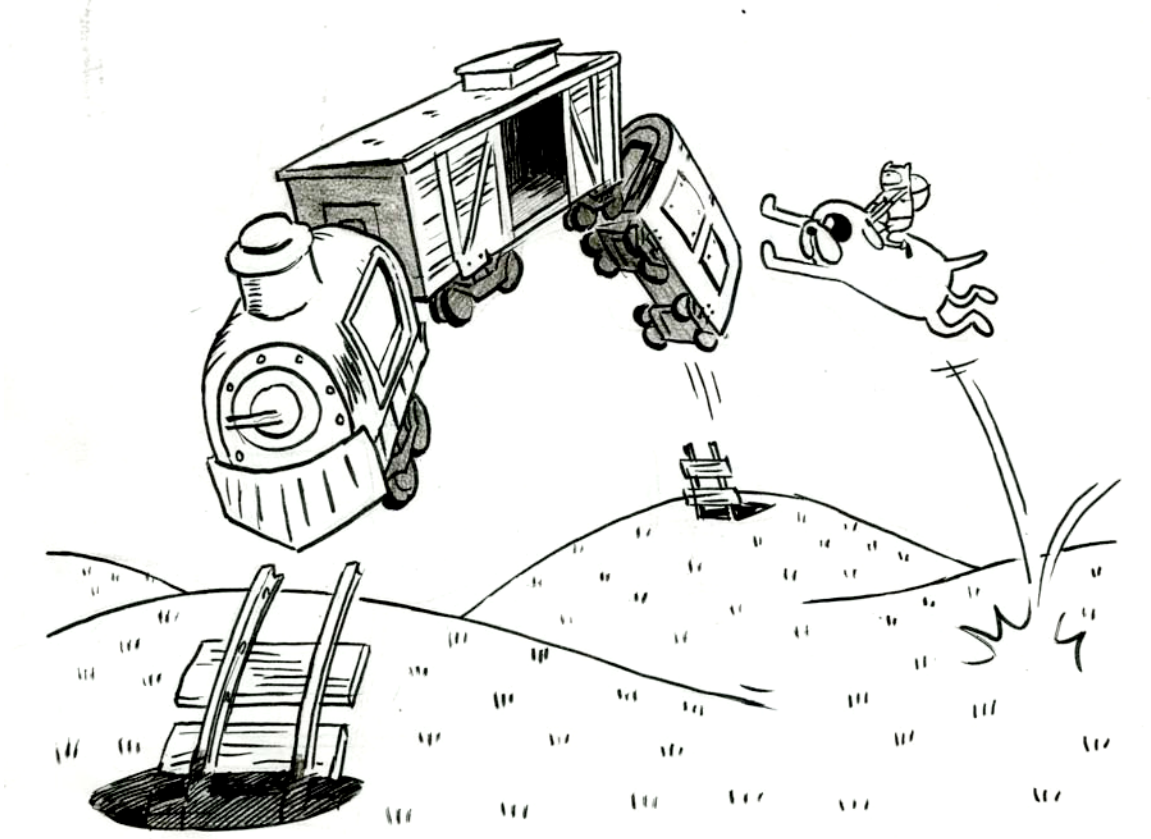
**ACT I**

Finn & Jake are fooling with the Tree Fort's generator (a converted locomotive engine sticking out of the ground) near the rusting hulks of other train cars. To Finn's surprise, Jake's face starts ringing. Jake casually pulls out an alarm clock from under his jowl.

JAKE: "Trainspotting Time in 10 seconds!" Jake quickly sets up a lawn chair in front of two huge holes in the ground. FINN: "What are you doing, buddy?" Jake: "I'm trainspotting, dude." Suddenly, the ground shakes and a train erupts from one of the holes, arching through the air like a dolphin before diving into the other hole. The train is gone in a flash. Jake marks down the train in his trainspotting logbook. JAKE: "That train passes by every day at noon and midnight. On the dot."

Finn has a ton of questions about this mystery train, such as: Who's on it? Where does it go? How does it run? How does it go so fast? JAKE: "I don't know, dude. That's not what trainspotting is about."

Finn's mind reels with the possibilities; he REALLY wants to catch that mystery train and get some answers! It's ADVENTURE TIME! They make plans to hop on it and just see where it takes them. Jake grabs his alarm clock and Finn loads some rations and whatnot into his backpack.



They go to the train tracks and wait for their opportunity; the train will go by so fast that they'll need to time their jump to the split second. To kill time, they beatbox and hambone while they pick some berries for the trip. Jake sets up a mound of pillows. Finn asks why they need a pile of pillows. "Trust me, dude," Jake replies.

The alarm clock goes off and they get into position. JAKE: "10 seconds!" Finn hops on Jake's back and they start galloping towards the "train jump" at breakneck speed. Finn digs his nails into Jake's fur. FINN: "You sure about—"

JAKE: "Just trust me, dude." Jake bounds one more time and LEAPS into empty air . . . The train comes barreling out of the hole and catches them in mid-jump! Finn & Jake fly through the side door of a boxcar and fall into the midst of a clutch of HOBOES engaged in a bindle duel (the equivalent of a knife fight). Finn's got the answer to his first question; this train is Hobo territory. The duelists turn their bindles on Finn & Jake . . .

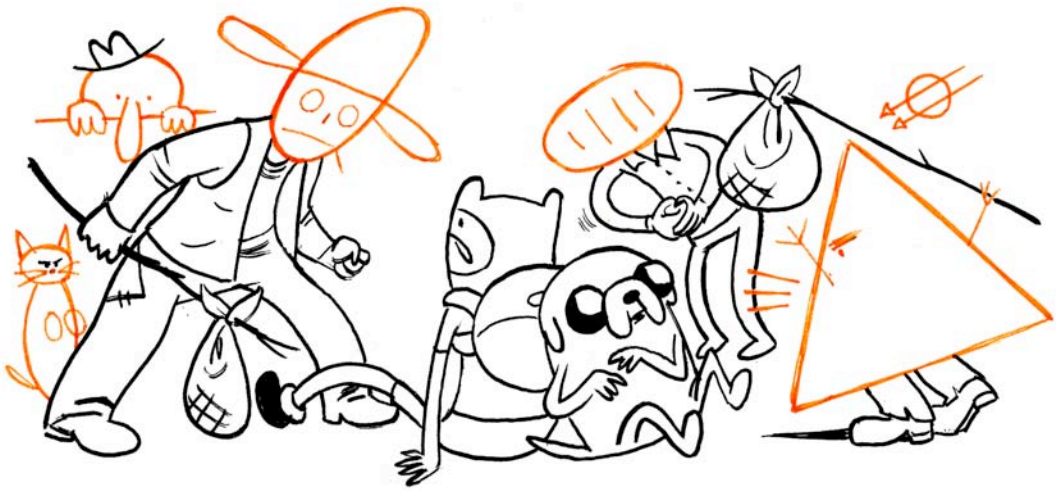
**ACT II**

"Give us your stuff!" demands the lead Hobo. He attempts to wrestle Finn's backpack away from him but Finn fights back. Luckily, Jake has the alarm clock hidden under his jowls.

FINN: "Hey, quit trying to steal my backpack!" LEAD HOBO: "Steal?! I thought you were offering me your pack as a GIFT! You've got to GIVE something to us when you board this train or you're in violation of the HOBO CODE! Tch. Give us your DOG, then!"

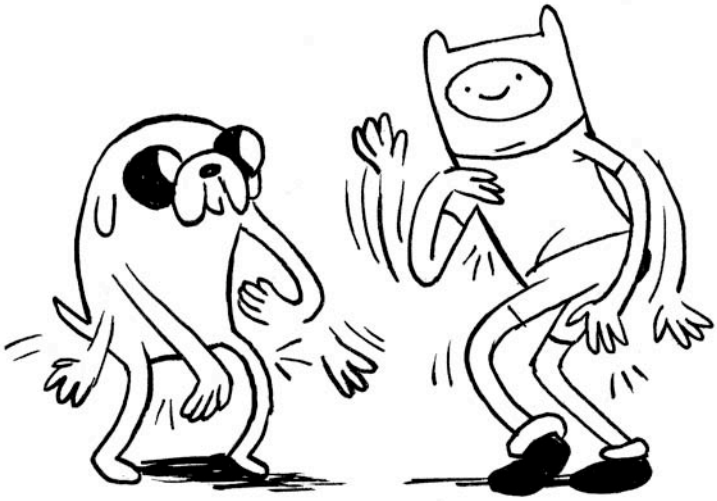
FINN: "NO WAY!" The head Hobo fumes back, "You're no HOBO! And only HOBOES are allowed on this train!" The angry Hoboes start backing Finn & Jake into a corner of the boxcar. FINN: "What did I do?!"

JAKE: "Psst! Dude, you've transgressed the HOBO CODE."
FINN: "Yeah, but what IS the code? What should we do?!"
JAKE: "Well, we better give them SOMETHING!"



Finn & Jake give 'em some **Hambone**! The Hoboes cease their advance and begin nodding in time to Finn & Jake's body percussion. They've been on this train so long that this is the first time they've seen Hambone performed. They're enthralled!

**HAMBONE SCENE!**



Their lives are spared— the Hambone wins over the Hoboes and Finn & Jake are allowed to stay, but only on probation. The Hoboes don't usually accept outsiders.

They're also sticklers for rules and if a Hobo breaks the Hobo code too often, they're tossed off the train. That doesn't seem too bad. Alpha Marvin, the leader of the Hoboes, throws open the boxcar doors and reveals the fields of razor-sharp brambles below. Being tossed out here is CERTAIN DEATH.

They try to ask the Hoboes about the train but they're ignored. Finn & Jake will have to become Hoboes themselves to get the answers they seek. But the Hobo way seems mighty strange. Finn watches the Hoboes pull a load of laundry out of the bubbling soup pot at the center of the boxcar.

Finn finds out that, to be accepted into the Hoboes, he'll need to be trained and tested by the senior Hoboes. FINN: "Alright, show me the ropes." The Hoboes show Finn some ropes hanging on the wall. "These are some pretty thick ropes... some little ropes... soap-on-a-rope."

First off, a Hobo has to be able to cook a good Mulligan Stew. Finn's not sure how to make a Mulligan so he just throws in all the rations from his backpack into the pot. Alpha Marvin takes a dip from the pot and nods in approval. Finn has inadvertently made the best Mulligan (a stew made of any available ingredients) they've had in years.

Next, a Hobo has to know how to mend clothes. The Hoboes rip Finn's sweater and hand it back to him along with a needle and thread. Finn tries his best to repair the sweater with clumsy crisscrossing stitches. He shows off his terrible-looking needlework. The Hoboes all react with wonder; it's the best sewing they've ever seen. Finn sees why when the Hoboes show him their own clothes; their stitching is even WORSE.

Thirdly, a Hobo has got to know their Hobo signs. The Hoboes demonstrate by drawing a symbol on the floor of the boxcar: a zigzag line that stands for 'dog'. Finn responds by drawing one of his own crazy symbols. FINN: "This sign means 'Stay Away! A crazy old Ice King lives here!" The Hoboes are all mightily impressed by Finn's inventive symbols. Having passed the Hoboes' tests, Finn is deemed fit to be called 'Hobo!'

Alpha Marvin dubs Finn with a bindle stick. The other Hoboes draw a five o'clock shadow on Finn and the Hobo sign for 'dog' on Jake's belly. While everybody is busy eating stew and mending their clothes, Jake surreptitiously winds up the alarm clock again.

Now that he's considered a bona fide Hobo, Finn asks all his questions about the train and gets exciting Tall Tale answers:

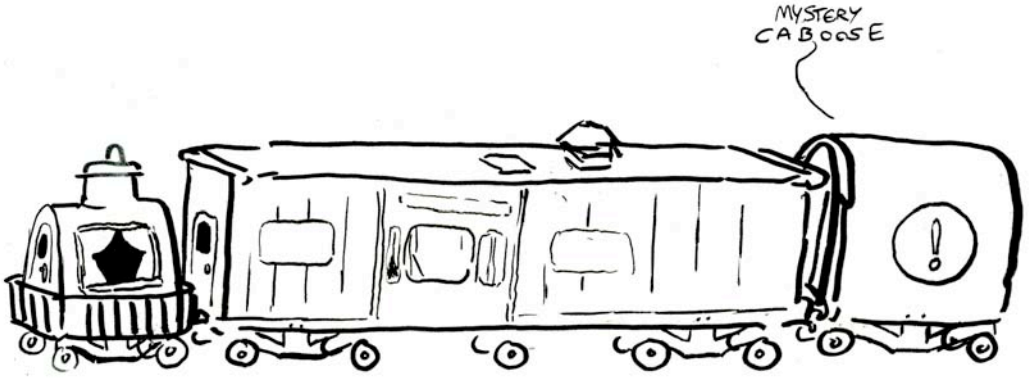
***Where did the train come from?*** The train was handmade by the ancient Hobo King, who founded their great Hobo society.
***Where does it go?*** The train runs underneath the circumference of the whole world. In fact, it's responsible for keeping the planet spinning.
***How does it run?*** It's powered by falling stars funneled through tamed whirlwinds.
***But how do they get their food and water if the train never stops?***

Finn sees Alpha Marvin carrying a big bowl of stew with him through a mysterious door at the end of the boxcar.

FINN: "What's behind that door?" All the Hoboes get really quiet all of a sudden. HOBOES: "Don't ask about that. You'll be alright here as long as you don't worry about that." FINN: "What?! What gives! I thought we were bona fide Hoboes now!" HOBOES: "Behind that door is the glittering palace filled to the ceiling with the finest biscuits and bindles. BUT only Alpha Hoboes are allowed to go through that mystery door. It's the Hobo code."

When Alpha Marvin returns they ask him how to become an Alpha Hobo:

ALPHA MARVIN: “You’ve just got to bank enough hours riding the rails.”
FINN: ”How long is that?”
ALPHA MARVIN: “Not long. Only 100 years.”




Forget that! Finn & Jake like being Hoboes but they like being ADVENTURERS even more. But that mystery door won’t get out of Finn’s mind. FINN: “We set out to solve ALL the mysteries of this train.” Finn MUST see what’s behind that door, even if it means breaking the Hobo code!

JAKE: “You want to be a code breaker, Finn?”
FINN: “Yes! Why is Alpha Marvin the only one who gets to see it? That’s against MY code.”

Finn & Jake secretly discuss how to see what’s behind the mystery door. They scope out the security-- there’s a fat Hobo guarding the door named Slim Starvo. They try talking their way past Starvo but he won’t be duped. Starvo: “I might be bribed, though.”

Finn & Jake try scrounging up some food (since Starvo looks so starving) to bribe Starvo but they come up empty. (They don’t want to get caught stealing Hobo stew.) Finn offers up the stuff out of his backpack but Starvo turns it all down. STARVO: “Not shiny enough.” Finally, Jake offers to give Starvo his shiny alarm clock, instead. FINN: “How will we know when to jump?” JAKE: "It’s worth it if we find out the secret." Starvo greedily accepts the alarm clock and gulps it down right away. But he still refuses to budge. STARVO: “Can’t. Hobo code.”

They’ll need to take another tack. The other Hoboes are still busy trying to figure out how to hambone. Finn & Jake decide to try sneaking past Starvo using hamboning as “infrared” camouflage. (Like in that *Predator* scene where Arnold covers himself with mud) And it works! Finn & Jake

seem to blend in with the other hamboners.

Having snuck by Starvo, Finn & Jake are just about to set eyes on the secret Hobo treasure but – when they stop dancing to open the mystery door - they're CAUGHT! Starvo sounds the alarm by yelling, "Whoooop! Whoooop!" like a car alarm. Finn & Jake try to harmonize with his whooping with a doo-wop song. If anything, that draws more attention to them. ALPHA MARVIN: “Seize them!” All the Hoboes grab Finn & Jake with murder in their eyes.

**ACT III**

ALPHA MARVIN: “You’ve broken the Hobo Code once too often! Time to catch the Westbound, boys.” Finn & Jake aren’t sure what that means. By way of explanation, Alpha Marvin draws his finger across his throat.

FINN: “Wait! Don’t you see?! Your Hobo code is all backwards. You should decide your OWN lives! All Hoboes are created equal! You ALL deserve to see what’s behind this door!”

“NO, WE DON’T!” the Hoboes reply in unison. Apparently, these Hoboes aren’t too progressive. The Hoboes brandish their bindles at Finn & Jake and drive them to the edge of the boxcar-- they plan on pushing them off into the thorny abyss!

FINN: “JIMMY SIDECAR! I know YOU feel different!”

ANGLE ON a hobo that we’ve never seen before (but we treat as though he has had some important emotional journey throughout this story) **JIMMY SIDECAR.** He’s interrupted mid-Hambone by Finn’s plea. He looks deeply conflicted.

Finn & Jake are pushed closer and closer to the side door. They’ll be KILLED! And, what’s worse, Finn will never know what’s behind that mystery door! Just then - the alarm clock starts ringing in Starvo’s belly.
Jake: "We’ve got 10 seconds until we need to jump, dude! "
Finn: "But … the DOOR!"

Finn & Jake battle the Hoboes to stay aboard until the right time to safely jump. Finn keeps desperately looking to the mystery door. Jake: “5 SECONDS!”

JIMMY SIDECAR: “You’re RIGHT. I do feel differently.”

Jake: "3! … 2! … 1! Time to JUMP, dude!" Jake jumps back from the boxcar and pulls Finn out with him. At the very VERY last second, Jimmy Sidecar dives for the door! He swings it wide open to show Finn what's behind the mystery door—

It's a GIANT FARTING BUNNY! And he looks really embarrassed at being exposed. Finn realizes that the Hoboes are full of it! This train has been powered by a GIANT FARTING BUNNY this whole time!

Propelled by that fat bunny's expulsions, the train disappears into the tunnel. Finn & Jake rise from the pile of pillows and dust themselves off, no worse for wear. FINN: "Oh, THAT'S what the pillows were for." JAKE: "You got it, dude."

Jake asks Finn what he saw inside the door. Finn doesn't have the heart to tell him the truth - that the Hoboes were full of complete bunk – so he makes up a Tall Tale to preserve Jake's fascination with the train. FINN: "Oh, it was great Jake. Even better than the Hoboes described." JAKE: "Wow, that's awesome. Because, for a second back there, I thought I heard a giant farting rabbit." FINN: "Heh. Trust me, Jake." Finn picks up a stick and ties Jake on to it in the shape of a bindle. They start heading back to the Tree Fort, singing a doo-wop tune.

**THE END**